



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 21, 2002

Contact: Robert Sherman
Deputy Executive Officer
(805) 654-2964

DRUG COURTS TO HOLD GRADUATION AND REUNION

In conjunction with "National Drug Court Month", the Ventura Superior Court will hold a Drug Court Graduation and Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, May 23, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice.

A total of eleven Juvenile Drug Court and Dependency Drug Court participants are scheduled to graduate. Past drug court graduates have also been invited to attend. The ceremony will be presided over by Judge Brian Back and Judge Charles Campbell.

Graduation from drug court marks the completion of a minimum 12-month program of comprehensive drug treatment, close supervision and full accountability. All drug court participants undergo treatment and counseling, submit to frequent and random drug testing, make regular appearances before the drug court judge, and are closely monitored for compliance. Drug court does not let substance abusers evade responsibility, but holds them responsible for their actions while giving them the tools they need to rebuild their lives.

Juvenile Drug Court began in September 1999. It is a program for minors charged with drug violations. The program seeks to decrease juvenile criminal recidivism, increase school attendance and performance, achieve sobriety, reduce juvenile arrest for drug and alcohol related offenses, and decrease violent crime.

Dependency Drug Court is a program for mothers who have given birth to newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol or drugs. It seeks to provide the earliest possible intervention for newborns while strengthening the ability of their family to care for them. Successful completion of the program results in early reunification of the family. Dependency Drug Court has been in operation since December 2000.

The two drug court programs represent the collaborative effort of the Ventura Superior Court; Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Ventura County Public Defender's Office, Ventura County Probation Agency, Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug Programs, Ventura County Public Health, Ventura County Health Services Agency Children and Family Services, CalWORKs, Job and Career Centers, Prototypes Women's Center, Casa Latina, and Action Family Counseling Centers.

#